

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator Smith. (Gavel.) Could we please have conversation a little lower so we can hear the speaker. Thank you, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, and I think this is important enough for people to listen to. We're talking here about spending \$100,000. Okay, I found out that in our area seven staff would be taken away by this measure, but six would be reinstated, that they would be distributed differently, but that free office space would still be provided, that telephone service for constituents or clients, in other words, would be a free service. In other words, they could call in at any time and that would be billed to the department and that what Senator Wesely discussed the other day as windshield service by the staff which would force that to happen. There would be a lot of travel time that would be added and they honestly feel, and I have come to the conclusion that this would not save...this is going to be no more costly than if we would do away with this measure, that we would still have to provide those services and it would be more costly to do it the other way. For this reason I have changed my mind on this issue and I am going to vote with it and I ask also along with those others that are standing to ask for you to suspend the rules in order to proceed with Senator Miller's recommendation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud, please and then Senator Pirsch. Senator Abboud. Senator Pirsch, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I apologize. I really started a brouhaha and I must admit, forgive me, I think I am convinced that I had the wrong figures when I spoke to you and I apologize for that. I think...well, as Senator Wesely has convinced me, the number was 71 million and not the 7 million that I had been informed. It has been an increase as many of the programs have. I still have some reservations that where are we going to draw the line on these kinds of things, but in private conversations and in the conversation on the floor you convinced me and I am changing and, Senator Miller, I apologize to you for causing that confusion. I had thought my figures were correct and I am convinced now that they were not and probably the 100,000 is a drop in the bucket to what the general budget is and while again I ask you, where do we draw the line? Where do we start drawing the line? I have changed my mind. I will vote to expedite this bill. Thank you.